TESTIMONY BEFORE THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

H.B. No. 5044 An Act Making Adjustments to State Expenditures for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017 February 18, 2016 Carol Gilbert, East Hartford, CT

Good evening Senator Bye, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Carol Gilbert and I am a registered voter in the town of East Hartford. I am here to testify on HB1234, An Act Concerning the Governor's Budget Recommendations.

I am opposed to the cuts to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. I have been going to InterCommunity since 1997, for treatment for severe clinical depression. It is the first place that ever helped me overcome my diagnosis. I started going to Common Ground, InterCommunity's member-run clubhouse, where I really found recovery. They showed me that I was a person that was capable of doing whatever I wanted in life.

Let me tell you, I have such a wonderful life right now. I am still going there and enjoy showing other people that you can have a better life if you want it. I would recommend this place to anyone. Please keep the money where it means the most for people.

Thank you for your time,

Carol Gilbert 886 Main Street Apt. 308 East Hartford, CT 06108 (860) 291-9522